CLAIMS:

1. A method for preventing at least in part a server overload comprising the steps of:

detecting an excessive number of packets exceeding a predetermined limit;

sending a request to one or more of one or more routers connected to said server having a privilege relationship with said server, wherein said request is a request to block said excessive number of packets, and

blocking said excessive number of packets by one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server for a first period of time.

2. The method as recited in claim 1 further comprising the step of:

propagating said request to block said excessive number of packets to one or more neighboring routers by one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server.

3. The method as recited in claim 2 further comprising the step of:

determining whether to block said excessive number of packets by said one or more neighboring routers.

4. The method as recited in claim 3, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

5. The method as recited in claim 4, wherein if said configuration file indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets then the method further comprises the step of:

blocking said excessive number of packets for a second period of time by one or more of said one or more neighboring routers if said configuration file in said one

or more of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

6. The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said second period of time is less than said first period of time.

7. The method as recited in claim 3 further comprising the step of:

determining whether to propagate said request by said one or more neighboring routers.

8. The method as recited in claim 7, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more additional neighboring routers.

9. The method as recited in claim 8, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers then the method further comprises the step of:

propagating said request to one or more additional neighboring routers of one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers if said configuration file in said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said request comprises one or more of an Internet Protocol address of said server, an Internet Protocol address of a client, and a port of said server.

11. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more routers connected to said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether a particular router has said privilege relationship with said server.

12. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more routers that have said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

13. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server block said excessive number of packets for said first period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

14. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more neighboring routers.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers then the method further comprises the step of:

propagating said request to one or more neighboring routers of one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server if said configuration file in said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers.

16. A system, comprising:

a server;

one or more routers coupled to said server, wherein one or more of said one or more routers with a privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for blocking an excessive number of packets for a first period of time;

one or more clients coupled to said server by way of an Internet; and

one or more neighboring routers coupled to said one or more clients configured to forward packets of data from said one or more clients to said server;

wherein said server comprises:

a processor;

a memory unit storing a computer program operable for preventing at least in part an overload of said server;

a bus system coupling the processor to the memory unit, wherein the computer program comprises the programming steps of:

detecting an excessive number of packets exceeding a predetermined limit; and

sending a request to one or more of said one or more routers connected to said server having said privilege relationship with said server, wherein said request is a request to block said excessive number of packets.

17. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to block said excessive number of packets to one or more neighboring routers.

18. The system as recited in claim 17, wherein said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to block said excessive number of packets.

19. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

20. The system as recited in claim 19, wherein if said configuration indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets then one or more of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

blocking said excessive number of packets for a second period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

21. The system as recited in claim 20, wherein said second period of time is less than said first period of time.

22. The system as recited in claim 18, wherein said one or more neighboring routers further comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to propagate said request.

23. The system as recited in claim 22, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more additional neighboring routers.

24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein if said configuration indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers then one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more additional neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers if said configuration file in said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more

neighboring routers indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers.

25. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein said request comprises an Internet Protocol address of said server, an Internet Protocol address of a particular client of said one or more clients, and a port of said server.

26. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein each of said one or more routers connected to said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether a particular router has said privilege relationship with said server.

27. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

28. The system as recited in claim 27, wherein said one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server block said excessive number of packets for said first period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

29. The system as recited in claim 16, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more neighboring routers.

30. The system as recited in claim 29, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers then one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more neighboring routers of said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server if said configuration file in said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers.

31. A system, comprising:

a server;

one or more routers coupled to said server; and

one or more clients coupled to said server by way of an Internet;

wherein one or more of said one or more routers coupled to said server having a privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for receiving a request, wherein said request is a request to block an excessive number of packets detected by said server, wherein one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for blocking said excessive number of packets for a first period of time.

32. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein one or more of said one or more routers connected to said server having said privilege relationship comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to block said excessive number of packets to one or more neighboring routers.

33. The system as recited in claim 32, wherein said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to block said excessive number of packets.

34. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

35. The system as recited in claim 34, wherein if said configuration indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets then one or more of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

blocking said excessive number of packets for a second period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

36. The system as recited in claim 35, wherein said second period of time is less than said first period of time.

37. The system as recited in claim 33, wherein said one or more neighboring routers further comprise circuitry for:

determining whether to propagate said request.

38. The system as recited in claim 37, wherein each of said one or more neighboring routers includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more additional neighboring routers.

39. The system as recited in claim 38, wherein if said configuration indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers then one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more additional neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers if said configuration file in said one or more neighboring routers of said one or more neighboring routers indicates to propagate said request to said one or more additional neighboring routers.

40. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein each of said one or more routers connected to said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether a particular router has said privilege relationship with said server.

41. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

42. The system as recited in claim 41, wherein said one or more of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server block said excessive number of packets for said first period of time if said configuration file in said one or more of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to honor said request to block said excessive number of packets.

43. The system as recited in claim 31, wherein each of said one or more routers having said privilege relationship with said server includes a configuration file, wherein said configuration file comprises information indicating whether to propagate said request to one or more neighboring routers.

44. The system as recited in claim 43, wherein if said configuration file indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers then one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server comprise circuitry for:

propagating said request to one or more neighboring routers of said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server if said configuration file in said one or more routers of said one or more routers with said privilege relationship with said server indicates to propagate said request to said one or more neighboring routers.